

CLAIMS

1. A data processing apparatus for reading from a recording medium a content which is stored in a specified recording area of the recording medium and playing back the read content, the recording medium storing according to a specified format contents and management information of the contents, the data processing apparatus comprising:

a content processor that reads management information from the recording medium, and reads the content according to the management information from the recording medium to process the read content;

a search section that, when the content processor reads a content, searches, for the content, a specified search range, if the content to be read is managed by the management information but not present in the specified recording area; and

a link information setting section,

wherein when the content is found by the search section, the link information setting section sets the link information for relating the recording area of the found content to the specified recording area so as to enable access to the content with the management information.

2. The data processing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the management information includes play list information for specifying playback sequence of contents, and track information including meta information relating to the contents.

3. The data processing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the specified search range is a recording area in the recording medium.

4. The data processing apparatus of claim 1, wherein

the specified search range includes a recording area of a recording medium which is incorporated in the data processing apparatus.

5 5. The data processing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the specified search range includes a recording area of a device which is connected to the data processing apparatus directly or through a network.

10 6. The data processing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the recording medium is a detachable recording medium.

7. The data processing apparatus of claim 6, further comprising:

15 a data storing section that stores contents which conform to a specified standard format,

 wherein the content processor reads the content from the recording medium or the data storing section according to the management information to process the read
20 content, and

 when the content processor reads a content, the search section searches the recording medium or the data storing section for the content, if the content to be read is managed by the management information but not present in
25 the specified recording area.

8. The data processing apparatus of claim 7, wherein the content is stored by priority in the recording medium, and after free area of the recording medium becomes less
30 than a predetermined value, the content is stored in the data storing section, and the management information for managing the content stored in the recording medium and the data storing section is stored in the recording medium.

35 9. The data processing apparatus of claim 6, further

comprising a management information storing section that stores management information which is read from the recording medium,

5 wherein the content processor reads the content with reference to the management information stored in the management information storing section, and

the link information setting section sets the link information on the management information storing section.

10 10. The data processing apparatus of claim 6, wherein the recording medium has unique identification information.

15 11. The data processing apparatus of claim 10, wherein the recording medium has a copyright protection function.

20 12. The data processing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the management information manages content ID which is identification information uniquely assigned to each content, and the search section searches for a content to be played back using the content ID.

25 13. A data processing method for reading from a recording medium a content which is stored in a specified recording area of the recording medium and playing back the read content, the recording medium storing according to a specified format contents and management information of the contents, the data processing method comprising the steps of:
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reading management information from the recording medium, and determining the content to be played back with reference to the read management information;

35 judging if the determined content exists in a specified recording area in the recording medium;

searching a specified search range for the content, if the determined content does not exist in the specified recording area; and

- 5 when the determined content is found, setting link information for relating the recording area of the found content to the specified recording area so that the content can be accessed with the management information.

- 10 14. The data processing method of claim 13, wherein the management information includes play list information for specifying playback sequence of the contents, and track information including meta information relating to the contents.

- 15 15. The data processing method of claim 13, wherein the specified search range is a recording area in the recording medium.

- 20 16. The data processing method of claim 13, wherein the specified search range includes a recording area of a recording medium which is incorporated in the data processing apparatus.

- 25 17. The data processing method of claim 13, wherein the specified search range includes the recording area of a device which is connected to the data processing apparatus directly or through a network.

- 30 18. The data processing apparatus of claim 13, wherein the recording medium is a detachable recording medium.

- 35 19. The data processing method of claim 18, wherein when the content is stored according to a specified format not only in the recording medium, but also in a data

storing section in the data processing apparatus,

the searching step searches the recording medium or the data storing section for the determined content, if the determined content is managed by the management information but not present in the specified recording area.

20. The data processing method of claim 19, further comprising the steps of:

storing the content by priority in the recording medium;

storing the content in the data storing section after free area of the recording medium becomes less than a predetermined value; and

storing management information for managing the contents stored in the recording medium and the data storing section in the recording medium.

21. The data processing method of claim 18, further comprising the step of storing the management information read from the recording medium in the data processing apparatus,

wherein the step of determining the content determines the content to be played back with reference to the management information stored in the data processing apparatus, and

the step of setting the link information determines the link information to the data processing apparatus.

22. The data processing method of claim 18, wherein the recording medium has unique identification information.

23. The data processing method of claim 22, wherein the recording medium has a copyright protection function.

24. The data processing method of claim 13, wherein the management information manages content ID which is identification information uniquely assigned to each content, and the search step searches for the determined content using the content ID.

25. A program for realizing the data processing method of claim 13 by a computer.

10 26. A computer readable recording medium storing the program of claim 25.